

Parent involvement in school-related activities

One of the National Education Goals calls for an increase in parent involvement in children's education. This involvement requires an active partnership between the parent and the school. Some schools have adopted practices or policies that encourage parents to become more involved in their children's school activities and events. These practices give parents the opportunity to actively participate in their children's education and encourage their children to participate in school activities and events.

- In 1996, parents of more than 80 percent of students reported attending a general meeting or a scheduled meeting with their child's teacher. Sixty-six percent of students had parents who reported attending a school event, while 40 percent had parents who reported volunteering or serving on a school committee.
- Parents of black and Hispanic students were more likely than parents of white students to help their children with homework three or more times a week.
- Parents' participation in school activities, such as attending general meetings or school events and volunteering at school, was associated with their educational attainment. As parents' educational attainment increased, so did their rates of participation in school activities.
- Parents of children who lived in households with two biological or adoptive parents were more likely than parents of children who lived in households with one biological or adoptive parent to attend general school meetings or school events, act as a volunteer, or serve on a school committee.

Percentage of students whose parents reported participating in their child's school activities and helping their child with homework, by selected characteristics: 1996

Selected characteristics	Participated in school activities ¹				Helped with homework ²		
	Attended general meeting	Attended scheduled meeting with teacher	Attended school event	Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee	Never or less than once a week	1–2 times a week	3 or more times a week
Total	87.8	84.0	66.1	39.6	26.7	35.2	38.2
Race/ethnicity							
White	88.2	83.0	70.9	44.5	28.2	37.0	34.9
Black	86.3	86.5	56.0	29.5	21.9	30.0	48.1
Hispanic	87.3	85.1	54.8	27.7	25.5	31.2	43.3
Parents' highest education level							
Less than high school diploma	81.3	83.7	42.2	18.3	28.8	30.1	41.1
High school diploma or GED	85.1	84.4	59.5	31.1	26.4	34.2	39.4
Some college/vocational/technical	87.4	83.6	68.4	40.2	26.4	35.8	37.8
Bachelor's degree	92.9	84.2	75.6	52.2	25.4	38.8	35.8
Graduate/professional school	92.7	83.8	81.0	56.8	27.9	35.1	37.0
Family structure							
Two biological or adoptive parents	89.1	83.9	70.7	47.6	26.5	34.9	38.5
One biological or adoptive parent	86.2	85.0	59.4	29.3	26.1	34.4	39.5
One biological/adoptive and one step parent	85.8	82.3	62.9	27.0	26.6	39.5	33.9
Other relatives	81.5	81.8	50.4	21.3	32.5	33.2	34.3

¹ Questions were asked of parents with students in preprimary school through grade 12.

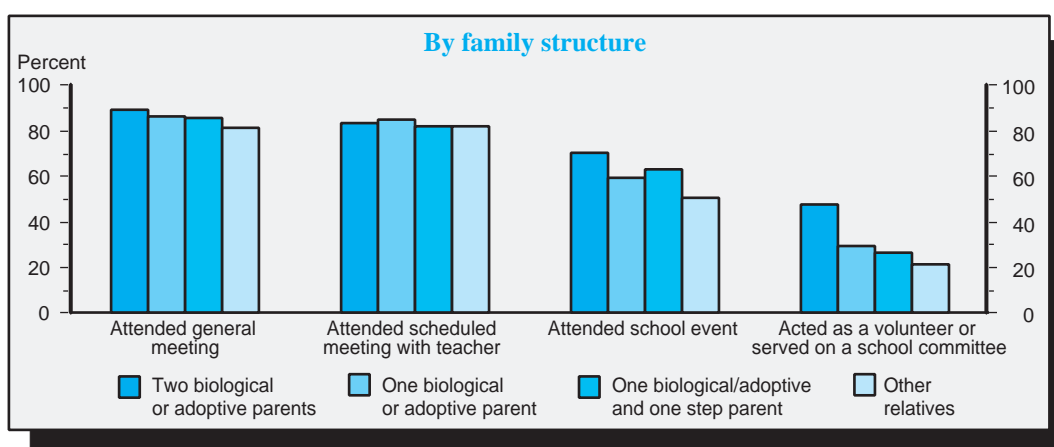
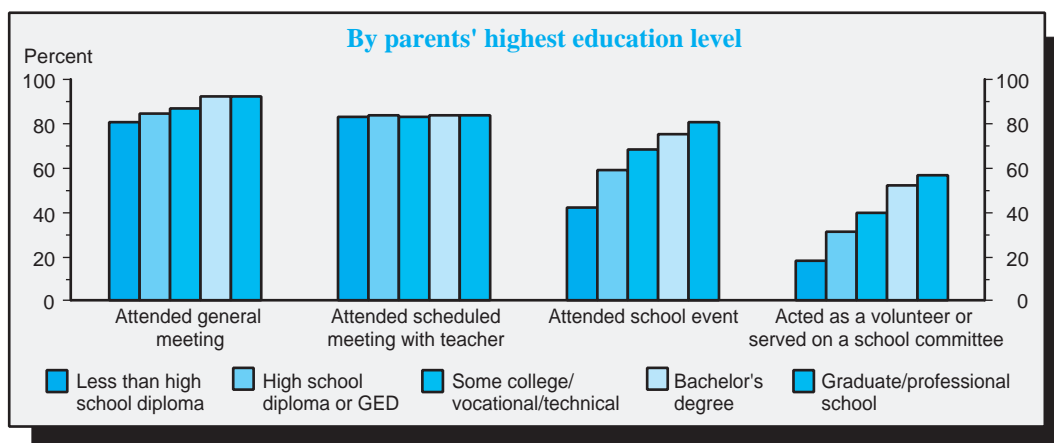
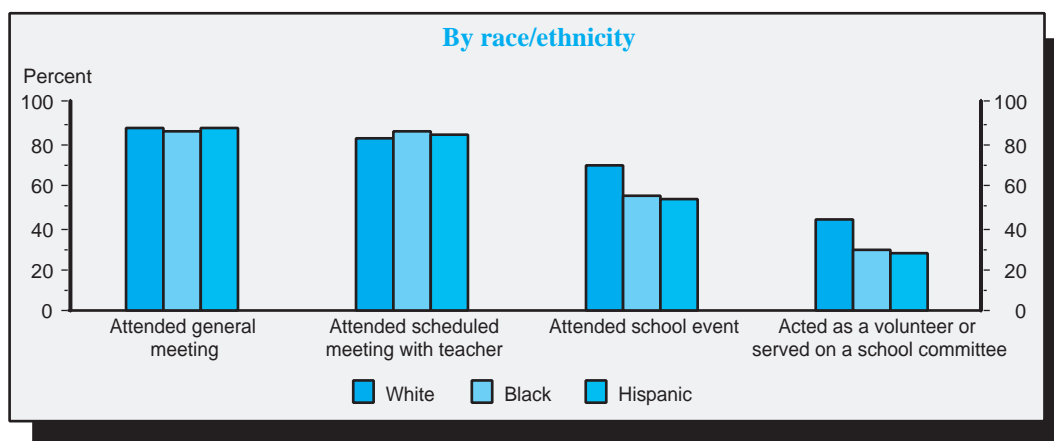
² Questions were asked of parents with students in grades 1–12.

NOTE: Included in the totals but not shown separately are other racial/ethnic groups and types of family structures. Parents of ungraded students or children who were home schooled were not included in this analysis.

See the supplemental note to this indicator for a detailed discussion of school activities.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).

Percentage of students whose parents reported participating in their child's school activities, by type of involvement and selected characteristics: 1996



NOTE: See the supplemental note to this indicator for a detailed discussion of school activities.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).

Note to Indicator 49: Format of NHES survey questions and description of school activities in which parents participate

This analysis presents data on parent involvement in children's school activities and the practices that schools use to promote parent involvement. All data describe parents of children enrolled in preprimary, elementary, and secondary schools unless otherwise noted.

Format of NHES survey questions

The majority of questions from the Parent and Family Involvement in Education component of the National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 were administered to parents with children in preprimary through grade 12. Some questions were asked only of parents with students in grades 1–12, while other questions were asked only of parents with students in grades 9–12. These questions are noted as such on the tables. While all data presented in this analysis refer to the children enrolled in school, the most knowledgeable parents of these children actually reported the data for this analysis.

Two formats were used for the questions on school practices: 1) a dichotomous (yes/no) format (e.g., "Has the school called you on the phone?") in which parents could respond if a school had used a particular practice, and 2) a scale in which parents could express their level of satisfaction with a particular school practice (e.g., "How well would you say your child's school makes you aware of chances to volunteer at the school?"). In this analysis, questions

which were asked in the dichotomous format are presented as the percentage of parents who responded "yes" to that question. All questions using the scale format are presented as the percentage of parents who answered "does very well," on a scale of "does very well," "does just o.k.," and "does not do at all."

Description of school activities in which parents participate

Schools use several practices to promote parent involvement in children's school activities. The list below describes the school activities in which parents were asked to report their participation:

Attended a general meeting: Includes general school meetings such as back-to-school nights or parent-teacher organization meetings.

Attended a regularly scheduled meeting: Includes school meetings such as parent-teacher conferences.

Attended school event: Includes events such as class plays, science fairs, and sporting events.

Acted as a volunteer or served on a school committee: Includes any volunteer work parents perform at their child's school.

SOURCE: U. S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).

Table S49 **Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 49***

Selected characteristics	Participated in school activities				Helped with homework		
	Attended general meeting	Attended scheduled meeting with teacher	Attended school event	Acted as a volunteer or served on a committee	Never or less than once a week	1–2 times a week	3 or more times a week
Total	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Race/ethnicity							
White	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Black	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2
Hispanic	1.0	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4
Parents' highest education level							
Less than high school diploma	1.3	1.1	2.0	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.0
High school diploma or GED	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
Some college/vocational/technical	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Bachelor's degree	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
Graduate/professional school	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2
Family structure							
Two biological or adoptive parents	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6
One biological or adoptive parent	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0
One biological/adoptive and one step parent	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Other relatives	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Household Education Survey (NHES), 1996 (Parent and Family Involvement in Education component).